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RAGAN and REUNION

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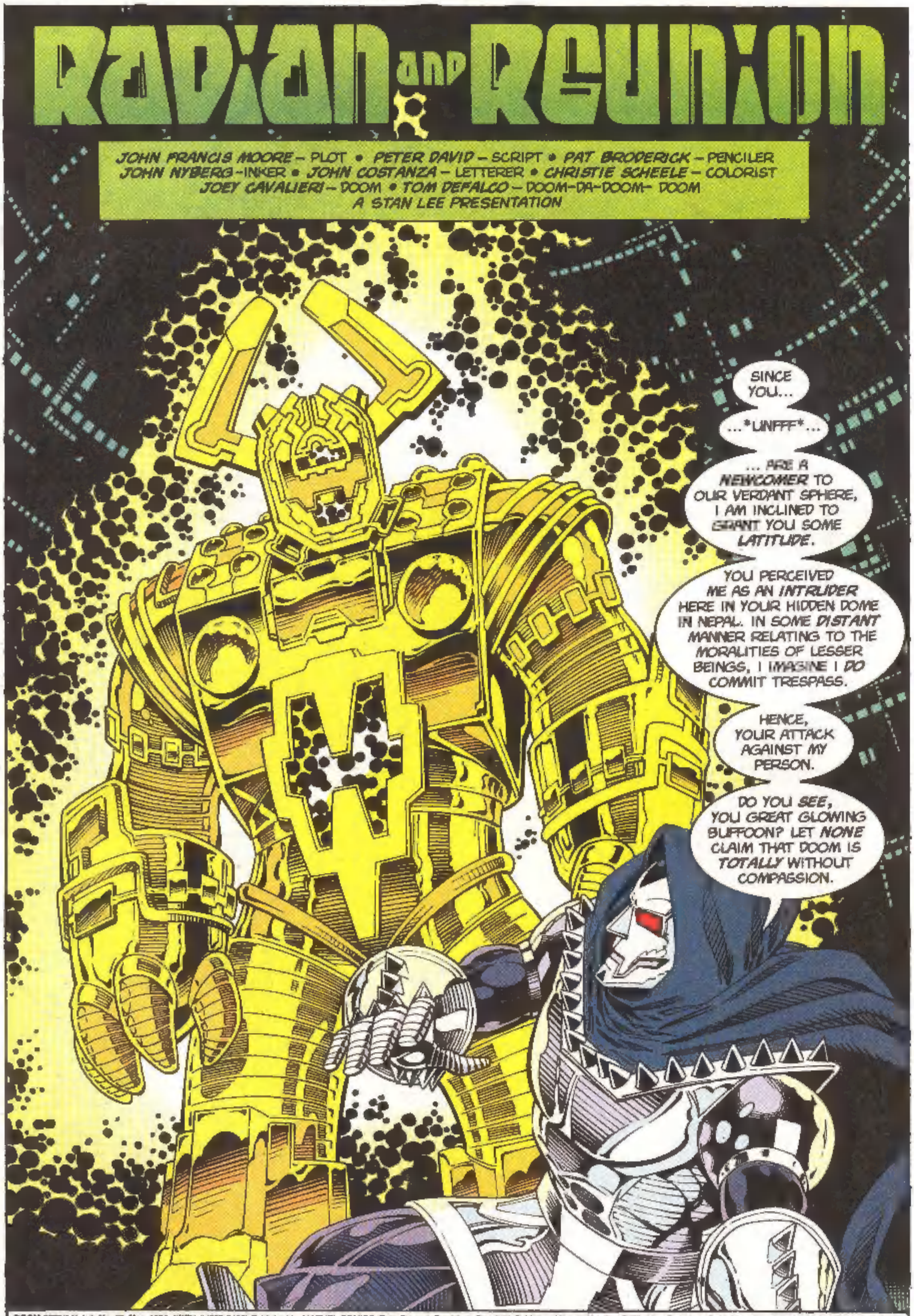
JOEY CAVALIERI – DOOM • TOM DEFALCO – DOOM-DA-DOOM- DOOM
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION


SINCE YOU...
...*UNFFF*...
... ARE A NEWCOMER TO OUR VERDANT SPHERE, I AM INCLINED TO GRANT YOU SOME LATITUDE.
YOU PERCEIVED ME AS AN INTRUDER HERE IN YOUR HIDDEN DOME IN NEPAL. IN SOME DISTANT MANNER RELATING TO THE MORALITIES OF LESSER BEINGS, I IMAGINE I DO COMMIT TRESPASS.
HENCE, YOUR ATTACK AGAINST MY PERSON.
DO YOU SEE, YOU GREAT GLOWING BUFFOON? LET NONE CLAIM THAT DOOM IS TOTALLY WITHOUT COMPASSION.

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HOWEVER, COMPASSION MUST *NOT* BE MISINTERPRETED FOR WEAKNESS.

UNDERSTAND, THEN, THAT I DO WHAT I AM ABOUT TO BECAUSE YOU *MUST* LEARN...

... THAT ON *THIS* WORLD, AS ON *ALL* WORLDS, *ACTIONS* HAVE *CONSEQUENCES*.

AND TO ATTACK *DOOM* IS TO SUFFER SOME OF THE MORE *DIRE* CONSEQUENCES THIS PLANET HAS TO OFFER.

YOU ARE... UNAFFECTED?

NO. NOT POSSIBLE.

YOU ARE, HOWEVER, QUITE *GIFTED* IN CONCEALING THE IMPACT MY ASSAULT HAS HAD ON YOU.

AND A *SECOND* BARRAGE WILL CERTAINLY...

EH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

PRESUMPTUOUS *FOOL! RELEASE ME IMMEDIATELY!*

YOU PUSH MY TOLERANCE *TOO FAR!* !--

... !...

...

HE ABANDONS ME... AS IF I WERE A PEST CAUGHT IN FLY PAPER!

HOW DARE YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THE SOVEREIGN RULER OF LATVERIA!

CLANG

SO. AWED BY SUPERIOR FIRE POWER, YOU TURN TO DIPLOMACY INSTEAD. BUT I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH YOUR ALIEN LANG--

-- WAIT! AN IMAGE COALESCES!

"BUT WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SHOW ME?"

YOU SEE, FENG HUANG? WHEN MORKOVKIN PROMISES...

MORKOVKIN DELIVERS.

THE LITTLE GYPSY WAS SO ANXIOUS TO FIND HER BROTHER ONCE MORE, THAT IT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY FOR ME.

NOT SO EASY THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE IT, MIND YOU. I SIMPLY WISH TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I CAN HANDLE GREATER CHALLENGES THAN THIS ONE WITH EQUAL FACILITY.

YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION, RUSSIAN...

... THAT THIS CHALLENGE IS CONCLUDED!

WRONG! YOU'LL PAY FOR RENDERING ME UNCONSCIOUS!*

KRATCH!

KRRRRRRAAAAAA-T!

KRATCH!

KEEP *AWAY* FROM HER! SHE IS *MINE!*

MINE SINCE *BIRTH.*

OR DID YOU *TRULY* THINK YOU COULD STAND AGAINST ME, LITTLE SISTER?

YOU HAVE FAILED *UNTIL* THIS POINT...

... SO WHAT SELF-INFLATED BURST OF EGO *MADE* YOU THINK *THIS* TIME WOULD BE ANY *DIFFERENT?*

YOU, LEI FONG, ARE *UNWISE...*

... AND *UNGRATEFUL...*

... AND...

OH DEAR. *UNCONSCIOUS* AGAIN.

SHAME... JUST GETTING... MY SECOND WIND...

OH, GET UP, MORKOVKIN. WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT? YOU WEREN'T MUCH OF A MAN TO BEGIN WITH.

I LOVE YOU, TOO.

GYPSY... YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS MUST COME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE WANDERED INTO.

OH, YES? WHICH ONE WERE YOU?

LEI FONG AND I ARE FROM THE SAME GENETICALLY ENHANCED FAMILY. OUR PARENTS ARE DESCENDANTS OF THE RED PRINCES OF CHINA...

... AND WERE WEALTHY ENOUGH TO DESIGN THEIR CHILDREN TO BE PART OF A LONG-LIVED DYNASTY.

WE WERE BRED TO BE WARRIOR KINGS AND QUEENS.

YOUR INSOLENCE, MORKOVKIN, I NEED NOT ENDURE. LEI FONG'S MISTAKE WAS NOT REALIZING YOU WERE IN MY EMPLOY.

YOUR MISTAKE WAS NOT SHUTTING UP.

THAT WILL BE RECTIFIED... NOW.

KLONK

UNHHHHH

ALL RIGHT, FENG HUANG. *ENOUGH* OF THIS GAME.

YOU CAN *END* THIS CHARADE, BECAUSE I'LL TELL YOU, IT WILL BE A *COLD* DAY IN *HELL* BEFORE VYTALI MORKOVKIN BEGS FOR FORGIVENESS.

HELL IS FILLED WITH *FLAMES*, MORKOVKIN.

BUT IF IT'S *COLD* YOU WANT, I'VE GOT *JUST* THE PLACE FOR YOU.

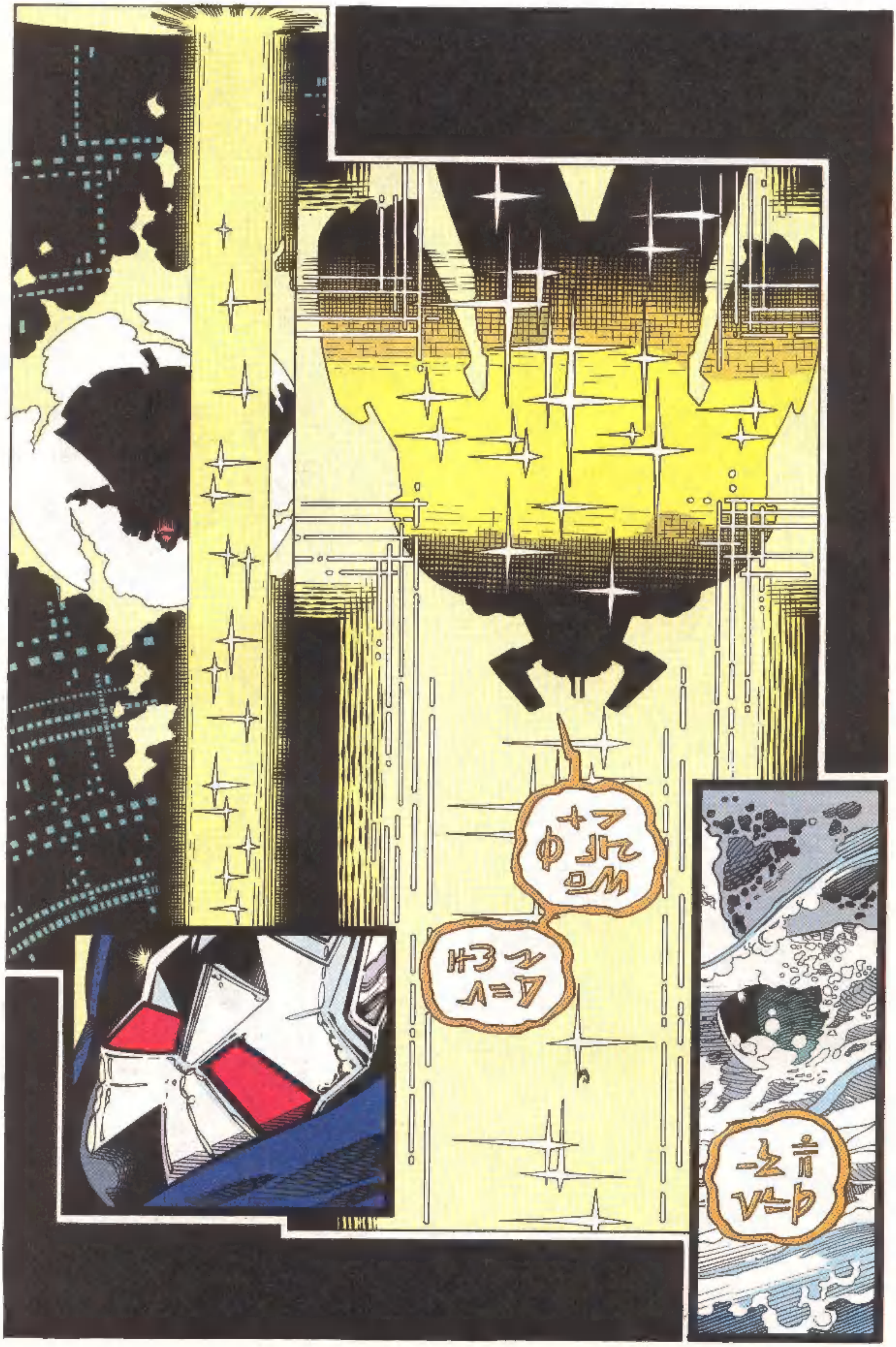
I *DID* WHAT YOU WANTED! IT'S BEEN AN *EXCELLENT* BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT!

WHY THROW IT *AWAY* OVER A FEW THOUGHTLESS *JIBES*, EH?

HUANG! STOP THIS! LET *ME OUT!*

YOU WANT *OUT*, MORKOVKIN? AS YOU WISH.

NICE LADY.



FOOL.

DID YOU *TRULY* THINK THAT DOOM COULD BE STOPPED SO EASILY?

WHY WASTE TIME KEEPING YOU ON THE *DEFENSIVE* IN SENSELESS COMBAT...

... WHEN I CAN HANG "HELPLESS" IN STASIS, WATCHING YOU GO [redacted] ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS...

... AND RECORDING YOUR *EVERY* MOVE WITH MY ONBOARD INSTRUMENTATION.

YOU MANIPULATE LIGHT [redacted] TO SERVE YOUR [redacted] THAT MUCH IS *CLEAR.*

THERE [redacted] NOTHING THAT *YOU* CAN DO, THOUGH, THAT DOOM [redacted] EMULATE.

WHERE DID YOU DEPART *TO,* HOWEVER?

PERFECT. I'VE TIED INTO THE DOME TECHNOLOGY, AND RECREATED THE ENERGY PATTERNS THAT ENABLED YOU TO *DEPART.*

LET US FIND OUT.

I TRUST THE LESSON OF MORKOVKIN HAS NOT BEEN *WASTED* ON YOU?

LESSON? WHAT LESSON IS THERE TO BE LEARNED?

THAT YOU ARE A WARPED, SADISTIC *PIG*? WE *ALREADY* KNEW THAT.

GOOD PLAN, LEI. MAKE HER *ANGRY*.

A LITTLE [redacted] STRATEGY LIKE THAT AND WE'LL *ALL* [redacted] DANCING THE ZERO-G MAMBO.

YOU ARE *INCORRECT*, MR... POET, IS IT?

FOR LEI FONG TO *ANGER* ME, HER WORDS WOULD FIRST HAVE TO BE OF *INTEREST*... WHICH THEY ARE *NOT*.

MISS FORTUNE, HOWEVER, *DOES* INTEREST ME.

"MISFORTUNE." NOW *THERE'S* A SET-UP LINE FOR YOU.

MY FAMILY HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE USE OF PROGNOSTICATION SKILLS. WOULD *YOU* BE [redacted] IN PROVIDING YOUR SERVICES, FORTUNE?

I AM INTERESTED IN SEEING MY *BROTHER*. *NOTHING* IS NEGOTIABLE UNTIL THAT CONDITION'S MET. AND IF YOU DON'T *LIKE* IT, THEN BLOW ME OUT AN AIRLOCK AND BE DONE WITH IT.

THE *WORST* YOU CAN DO IS *KILL* ME.

NOW *THERE'S* AN ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTION.

POSTURING IS *NOT* NECESSARY, HOWEVER.

THIS IS THE INDIVIDUAL YOU SEEK, I PRESUME.

KAZ...?

KAZ!!!

HOLD ON, FORTUNE. LOOK AT HIM.

THERE'S NO "THERE" THERE.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, YOU BI--!

RESTRAIN YOURSELF, FORTUNE. I WILL NOT HAVE MY COOPERATION REPAID WITH BILE.

SPEAK SO AGAIN AT YOUR EXTREME PERIL.

NOW... AS TO YOUR BROTHER'S CONDITION... I SWEAR ON THE HONOR OF MY PARENTS THAT I DID NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT.

THE GYPSY WAS *FOUND* THUS, IN AN ALIEN BEACON LEFT ON EARTH.

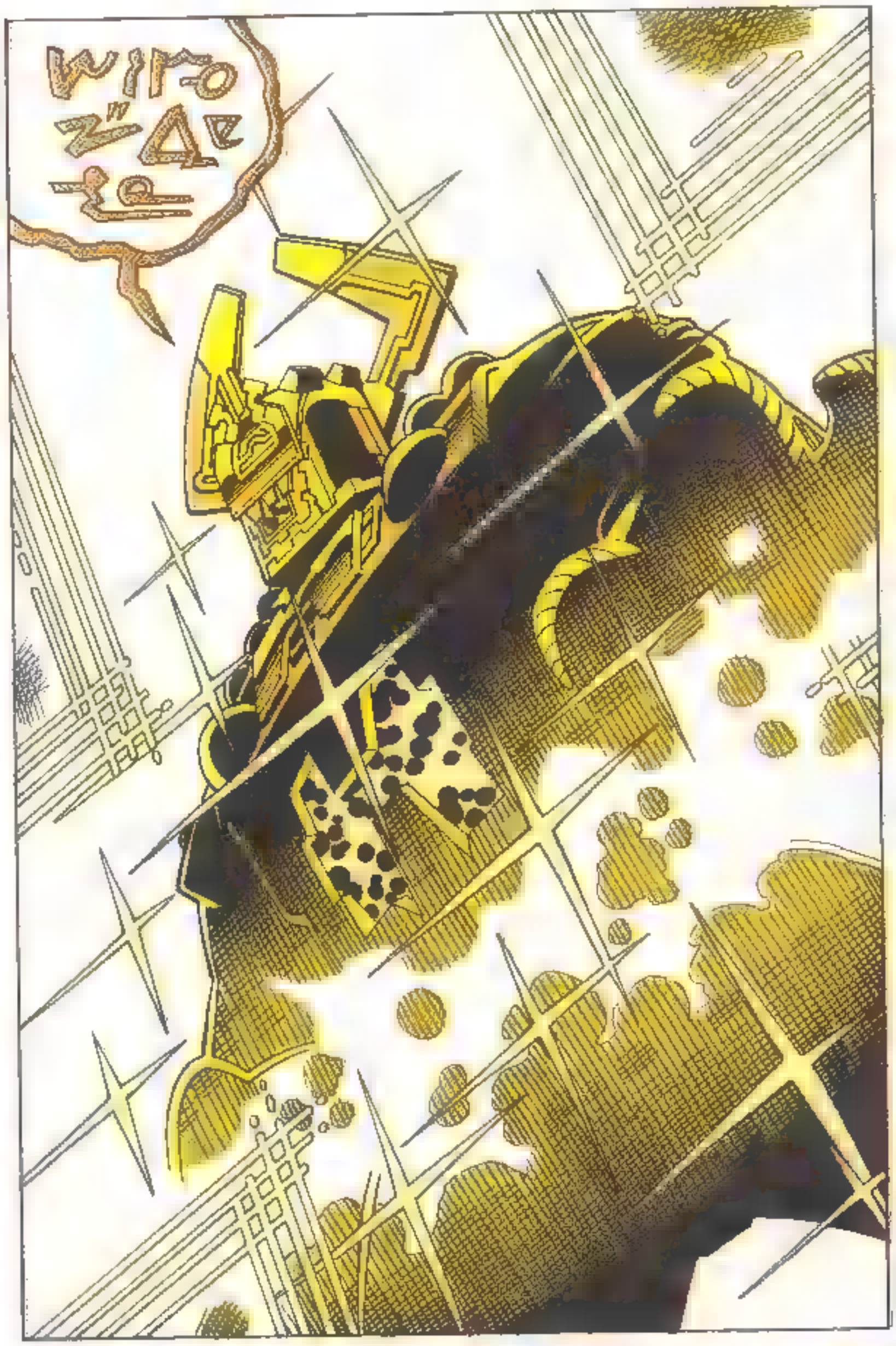
AS NEAR AS COULD BE *DETERMINED*, THE TECHNOLOGY MATCHED *NONE* OF EARTH'S *PREVIOUSLY* KNOWN VISITORS.

TRY AS THE SCIENTISTS MIGHT, THEY COULD *NOT* TRANSLATE THE TRANSMISSIONS BEING BEAMED INTO THE BEACON. THE GYPSY, HOWEVER, *COULD*.

YOUR BROTHER'S BRAIN WAS ALTERED BY THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY. HE'S SOMETHING OF A "ROSETTA STONE" FOR THIS NEW ALIEN RACE.

A RACE WITH WHOM WE *AWAIT FIRST* CONTACT.

AND I WILL BE THE BENEFICIARY OF *ALL* THEIR TECHNOLOGY, THANKS TO KAZ.


WHO
"AE
E

HOLEEE...
I... I GUESS MY SAYING THAT STORY IS A CROCK WOULD, UH... BE OUT OF LINE ABOUT NOW... HUH?
IT... IT COULD STILL BE A... A TRICK OF SOME KIND...

A TRICK?
NO.

AH. YOU FINALLY EXHIBIT AN [redacted] FITTINGLY, [redacted].

WHEN YOU UNDERESTIMATE DOOM, SUCH IS TO BE *EXPECTED*.

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*?

NO! *STOP*, YOU FOOL! DON'T AIM AN ENERGY PULSE BACK THROUGH THE GATEWAY! IF YOU DO *THAT*, YOU'LL--

STOP! I *COMMAND* Y--!

"AH... I SEE YOU HAVE ENGINEERED IT SO THAT FENG HUANG HAS BEEN *DENIED* YOUR TECHNOLOGY..."

HEM HIM IN! BUT DON'T FIRE ON HIM UNLESS I ORDER YOU T--

ACKKK

IT WOULD APPEAR, WOMAN, THAT YOUR ORDERS ARE OF LITTLE IMPORT HERE.

IS THE BIG GUY WITH YOU?

AS MUCH AS IT CAUSES ME CHAGRIN, I AM FORCED TO ADMIT THAT I, RATHER, AM WITH HIM.

SSSSS

SSS

GREETINGS. I AM... *RADIAN*... OF THE Y'LESTJA.

IT HAS TAKEN ME... SOME TIME... TO *ASSIMILATE* ALL YOUR LANGUAGES. THERE ARE SO *MANY*.

THAT IS... *INCONVENIENT*. YOU SHOULD TAKE STEPS... TO REMEDY IT.

HE... HE'S SPEAKING IN *MANDARIN!*

I'M HEARING ENGLISH!

AND I HEAR LATVERIAN...

... ALBEIT WITH AN *ABYSMAL* ACCENT.

YOUR LANGUAGE IS, ULTIMATELY, YOUR *OWN* CONCERN.

MINE IS PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE Y'LESTJA.

TO THAT END, I HAVE TAKEN *CONTROL* OF YOUR VESSEL.

AND NOW...I WOULD SPEAK WITH *YOU*.

WHAT ARE THEY DISCUSSING WITH SUCH... *INTENSITY?!*
I DUNNO. LONG HAIR VERSUS SHORT HAIR?

ALL RIGHT, RADIANT ONE! NO ONE USURPS MY VESSEL.

I HAD HOPED TO LEARN ALL ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR OWN LIPS.

I WILL SETTLE, THOUGH, FOR A DETAILED AUTOPSY.

PUT THAT DOWN, WOMAN! ARE YOU COMPLETELY DERANGED?

FWAK

I WARNED YOU, WOMAN! NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

ME!? YOU SPOILED MY SHOT!

KAZ!!

THEY SAY... IF YOU DIE... WITH ENOUGH FOCUSED *HATRED*...

... THEN THE SUBJECT OF THAT HATRED... WILL NEVER AGAIN... KNOW *PEACE*...

FENG... *THIS* HATRED... IS... FOR... Y...

DO NOT GRIEVE, WOMAN.

YOU SEEK TO OFFER HER SOLACE...?

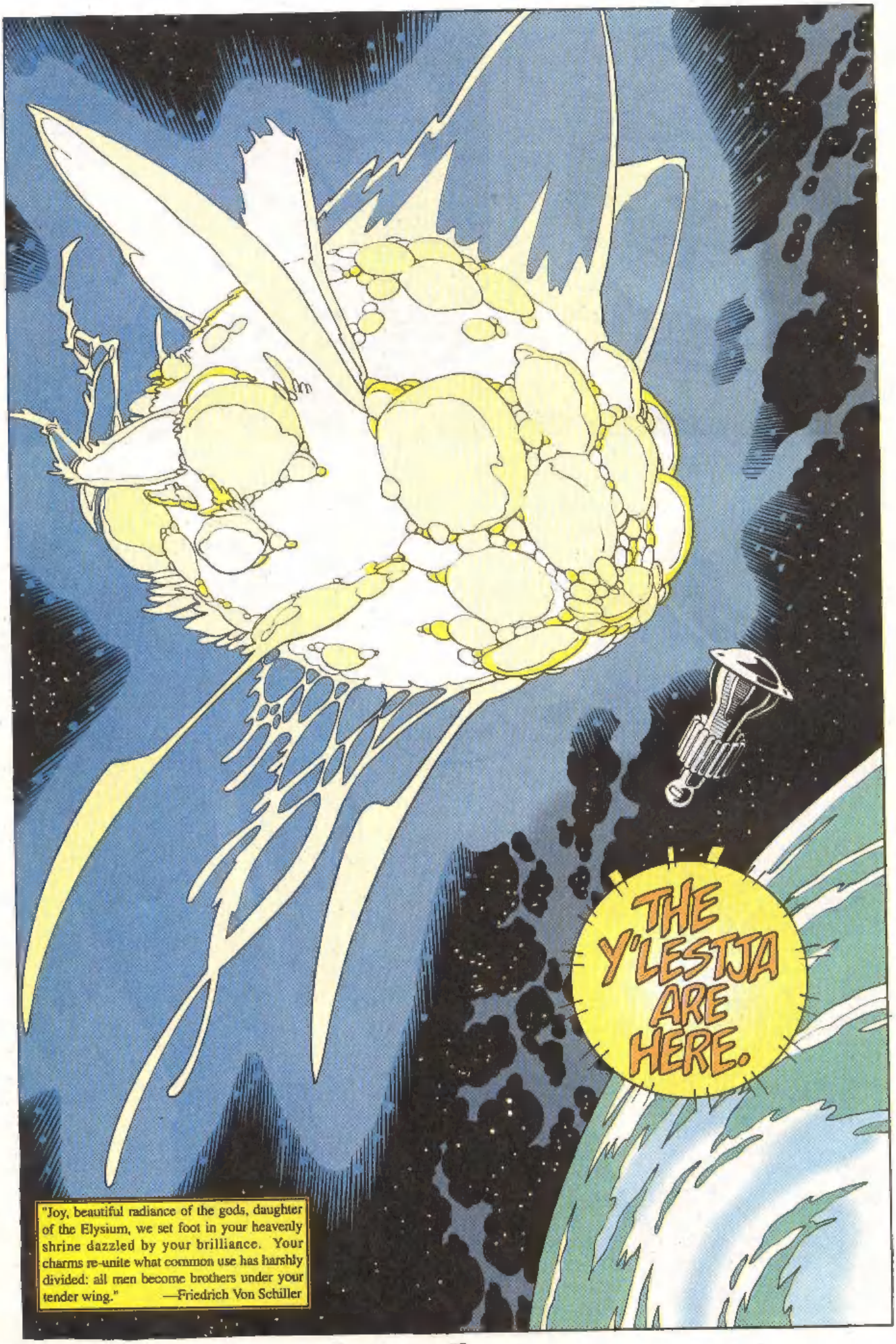
WAIT... WHAT IS...?

NO. NO SOLACE.

IT'S SIMPLY THAT HER GRIEF DOES NOT PARTICULARLY MATTER ANYMORE.

NONE OF YOUR EARTHLY CONCERNS DO.

FOR, AS YOU CAN SEE...



"Joy, beautiful radiance of the gods, daughter of the Elysium, we set foot in your heavenly shrine dazzled by your brilliance. Your charms re-unite what common use has harshly divided: all men become brothers under your tender wing." —Friedrich Von Schiller